REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claims 1-3 and 5 have been amended and Claims 7, 8 and 9 have been added herein.

Applicants are submitting herewith ten (10) sheets of replacement drawings to be substituted for the sheets currently on file in this application. The new sheets are merely cleaner versions of the original drawing sheets.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,736,995 (Bohorquez et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Bohorquez et al. relates to temperature control of thermal ink jet print heads. Depending on whether the measured temperature of the print head substrate is below a reference temperature, heating, non-printing pulses and printing pulses are delivered to the ink firing resistors. As discussed previously, discrimination as to whether to deliver a non-printing pulse or a printing pulse is performed in Bohorquez et al. on a resistor-by-resistor basis. Accordingly, even if the print head substrate 40 in Figure 3 was

construed, arguendo, to support a plurality of heads, such an interpretation will still fail to meet the features of the present invention.

In particular, Bohorquez et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least a recording mode setting circuit for setting a head that is to be used for recording in a recording operation based on image data and a head that is not to be used for recording all the way through the recording operation based on the image data, from among the plurality of heads, and control means for heating not causing ejection, if an obtained temperature of a print head unit is in a predetermined range, only the head that is set to be not used for recording to adjust the temperature of the head to be used for recording utilizing heat conduction, as is recited in independent Claim 1.

Nor does Bohorquez et al. disclose or suggest at least discriminating between a head that is to be used in a next recording operation based on image data and a head that is not to be used all the way through the next recording operation based on the image data, and control means for heating not causing ejection, if an obtained temperature of a print head unit is in a predetermined range, only the head that is to be not used before the head discriminated to be used for recording starts the recording operation, to adjust the temperature of the head to be used utilizing heat conduction, as is recited in independent Claim 5.

Thus, Bohorquez et al. fails to disclose or suggest the important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 5. Dependent Claims 2, 3 and 6-9 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in the independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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